

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 260802

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TO CINCPAC

S E C R E T STATE 260802

EXDIS MIL ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 23189 SENT SECSTATE DATED NOV 4.

QUOTE

S E C R E T BANGKOK 23189

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS CINCPAC, SECDEF, JCS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH

SUBJECT: U.S. FORCE REDUCTIONS IN THAILAND

REF: (A) BANGKOK 23079; (B) STATE 254872

1. AS REPORTED REF A, FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI WISHES TO HOLD A FURTHER MEETING ON U.S. FORCE REDUCTIONS AND RESIDUAL U.S. PRESENCE NOVEMBER 11. IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE DCM TODAY, NOVEMBER 4, MFA POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR GENERAL KOSON CONFIRMED THE NOVEMBER 11 DATE. HE SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO CHATCHAI AND OTHER MFA OFFICIALS, THE CHIEFS OF STAFF OF THE ROYAL THAI ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE AND THE CHIEF OF

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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 260802

STAFF, SUPREME COMMAND, GENERAL CHAROEN PONGPANICH,

WOULD BE PRESENT. KOSON SAID THE THAI WOULD WANT AT THAT TIME A FIRM TIMETABLE FOR U.S. WITHDRAWALS AS WELL AS MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE RESIDUAL PRESENCE. AS THEY HAVE REPEATEDLY INFORMED US, THEY HAVE A PARTICULAR NEED TO KNOW BASE CLOSURE DATES IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THEIR OWN PLANNING. IT WILL BE IMPORTANT FOR US TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION AT THE NOVEMBER 11 MEETING. KOSON ALSO INDICATED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN JUST HOW THE RECONFIGURATION OF RAMASUN STATION WOULD TAKE PLACE. WE BELIEVE THAT GUIDANCE FROM NSA HAS BEEN TIMELY AND CLEAR AND WE ANTICIPATE NO PROBLEM WITH THIS QUESTION.

2. SUBJECT TO VIEWS OF SECDEF, JCS AND CINCPAC, THE MISSION BELIEVES THE FOLLOWING BASE CLOSURE SCHEDULE WOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO POLITICAL NEEDS HERE AND IS FEASIBLE IN PRACTICAL TERMS, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD REQUIRE SOME QUICK AND FANCY FOOTWORK: CLOSE UDORN, DECEMBER 31; CLOSE KORAT, FEBRUARY 15; CLOSE THOSE PORTIONS OF UTAPAO THAT U.S. WILL NOT BE RETAINING, MARCH 15.

3. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT IN ALL CASES, CERTAIN RETRO-GRADE ACTIONS MIGHT HAVE TO BE CARRIED OVER BEYOND THE CLOSURE DATE. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE DIFFICULTY IN WORKING THIS OUT AD HOC WITH RTG.

4. INCIDENTALLY, WE NOTE (STATE 255575 AND STATE 258802) THAT INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AIRCRAFT REDEPLOYMENTS, SENT TOKYO AND MANILA RESPECTIVELY, IMPLY THAT DISCUSSION OF THESE MATTERS HAS ALREADY BEEN INITIATED WITH RTG. SINCE WE WOULD NOT WISH RTG TO LEARN OF SUCH SPECIFICS FROM THIRD PARTIES, SUGGEST DEPARTMENT ASK EMBASSIES TOKYO AND MANILA TO WITHHOLD ACTION ON THOSE INSTRUCTIONS UNTIL WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN PARTICULARS BY DEPARTMENT AND MADE THEM KNOWN TO RTG.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE, BEFORE NOVEMBER 11, A SCHEDULE OF BASE CLOSURE DATES FOR UDORN, KORAT AND THOSE PORTIONS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 260802

OF UTAPAO TO BE RELINQUISHED, GIVING IN-COUNTRY TOTAL AUTHORIZED MANNING LEVELS AT EACH STAGE. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE AT LEAST TENTATIVE INDICATION OF DESIRED AIRCRAFT WITHDRAWAL SCHEDULES. WHITEHOUSE UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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